

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 PM-03 INR-07 L-02 ACDA-05

NSAE-00 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 USIA-06 TRSE-00 SAJ-01

DODE-00 SS-15 NSC-05 /061 W
----- 111720

R 301555Z APR 75

FM USMISSION NATO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1525

INFO AMEMBASSY BLEGRADE

AMEMBASSY BERLIN

AMEMBASSY BUCHAREST

AMEMBASSY BUDAPEST

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY OTTAWA

AMEMBASSY PRAGUE

AMEMBASSY WARSAW

C O N F I D E N T I A L USNATO 2406

E.O. 11652: XGDS-1

TAGS: PFOR NATO UR YO

SUBJECT: YUGOSLAV PRIME MINISTERS APRIL 9-15 VISIT TO THE USSR

DURING APRIL 29 POLADS, CANADIAN REP CIRCULATED FOLLOWING ANALYSIS
BY CANADIAN EMBASSY BELGRADE OF YUGOSLAV PRIME MINISTER BIJEDICS
APRIL 9-15 VISIT TO THE USSR.

BEGING TEXT:

THE APRIL 9-15 VISIT OF YUGOSLAV PRIME MINISTER
BIJEDIC TO THE SOVIET UNION RECIEVED EXTENSIVE PUBLICITY
HERE. ALTHOUGH THE YUGOSLAVS ORIGINALLY SAW THE VISIT
PRIMARILY IN ECONOMIC TERMS (AND, IN THE ABSENCE OF A TITO/
BREZHNEV MEETING SINCE 1973, TO PROVIDE REGULAR HIGH LEVEL
CONTACT BETWEEN THE TWO COUNTRIES), IT ALSO AFFORDED THE
YUGOSLAVS AN OPPORTUNITY TO SET THE PUBLIC RECORD STRAIGHT
AND TO OBTAIN AN OFFICIAL SOVIET PUBLIC ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF
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THE YUGOSLAVS ROLE IN LIBERATION OF THEIR COUNTRY. AS A
RESULT OF THE JAKUBOVSKI AND GRESHKO ARTICLES AND TITOS
SKOPLJE SPEECH, BASIC DIFFERENCES BETWEEN THE SOVIET AND
YUGOSLAV VERSIONS OF HISTORY WERE BEING TREATED BY THE

YUGOSLAV PRESS AS A SOURCE OF MAJOR DISAGREEMENT BETWEEN TWO COUNTRIES.

A CONVERSATION BETWEEN THE CANADIAN AMBASSADOR AND A SENIOR MEMBER OF THE YUGOSLAV FOREIGN MINISTRY HAS CONFIRMED LOCAL PRESS REPORTS THAT THE YUGOSLAVS ARE REASONABLY SATISFIED BOTH WITH THE ECONOMIC RESULTS OF THE VISIT AND WITH THE PUBLIC RECOGNITION THAT THE USSR HAS GIVEN TO THE PARTISANS ROLE IN THE DEFEAT OF FASCISM. THERE IS NO EVIDENCE, HOWEVER, THAT THE VISIT ADDRESSED ITSELF TO OTHER AREAS OF DIFFERENCE- E.G., THE MEETING OF EUROPEAN CPS AND YUGOSLAV-BULGARIAN RELATIONS- THAT APPEAR TO BE EXERTING A STRAIN ON THE PRESENT GOOD RELATIONSHIP.

DESPITE BIJEDICS EFFORTS DURING HIS VISIT, AND OTHER SOVIET AND WP ATTEMPTS TO SATISFY YUGOSLAVIA INCLUDING ALLOWING LCY SECRETARY GENERAL STANE DOLANC TO PUBLISH A REBUTTAL TO JAKUBOVSKI IN THE PRAGUE DAILY "RUDE PRAVO" THERE ARE INDICATIONS THAT YUGOSLAVS ARE NOT YET FULLY SATISFIED. IN LAUDING BOTH THE SOVIET AND YUGOSLAV ROLES IN THE DEFEAT OF THE FASCISTS, THE COMMUNIQUE DOES NOT ADDRESS ITSELF DIRECTLY TO THE FUNDAMENTAL QUESTION OF WHICH GROUP DESERVES CREDIT FOR YUGOSLAVIA'S LIBERATION. IN ADDITION, THE INTERNAL YUGOSLAV CAMPAIGN TO SET THE RECORD STRAIGHT, WHILE SOMEWHAT ABETTED, HAS NOT CEASED ALTOGETHER.

ACCORDING TO THE SENIOR YUGOSLAV OFFICIAL, THE PRINCIPAL PURPOSE OF THE VISIT WAS ECONOMIC. YUGOSLAVIA WANTED TO INSURE THAT ITS REQUIREMENTS WERE FULLY TAKEN INTO ACCOUNT IN THE NEW SOVIET FIVE YEAR PLAN- IN FACT, A MAJORITY OF RECENT AND PENDING VISITS WITH THE SOCIALIST COUNTRIES (INCLUDING THE IMPENDING VISIT OF THE POLISH PRIME MINISTER) WERE PRIMARILY DIRECTED AT DISCUSSING THE IMPLICATIONS FOR YUGOSLAVIA OF THEIR RESPECTIVE NEW FIVE YEAR PLANS.

IN OTHER SPHERES, THE TALKS DURING THE BIJEDIC VISIT HAD ALSO REVIEWED WITH SATISFACTION THE INCREASINGLY CONFIDENTIAL

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EXTENSIVE CULTURAL, SCIENTIFIC AND EDUCATIONAL COOPERATION BETWEEN YUGOSLAVIA AND THE USSR. HOWEVER THE YUGOSLAVS REGRET THAT IT DID NOT RESULT IN AN AGREEMENT ON INFORMATION - IN FACT NOTHING WAS ACHIEVED IN THIS FIELD, AN AREA OF LONG STANDING DISAGREEMENT IN YUGOSLAV/SOVIET RELATIONS.

ALTHOUGH INTERNATIONAL ISSUES CLEARLY WERE NOT THE MAJOR FOCUS OF ATTENTION DURING THE VISIT, OUR YUGOSLAV INFORMANT DREW ATTENTION TO THE FACT THAT BIJEDIC HAD DISCUSSED THE CSCE WITH KOSYGIN. HE NOTED THAT BOTH WERE FOR THE HOLDING OF THE THIRD PHASE AS SOON AS POSSIBLE", BUT DENIED THAT THIS REPRESENTED A CHANGE FROM THE MORE BALANCED YUGOSLAV POSITION THAT HAD PREVIOUSLY EMPHASIZED

BOTH A SPEEDY AND A SUCCESSFUL CONCLUSION. THE YUGOSLAVS,
HE INSISTED, WOULD NOT WANT SUCCESS SACRIFICED FOR SPEED
BUT THOUGHT THAT IF THE CONFERENCE DRAGGED ON, ITS
RESULTS WOULD BE "DEVALUED". IT WAS THE YUGOSLAV EXPECTATION
THAT STAGE III COULD STILL BE SCHEDULED FOR JULY, ALTHOUGH
THEY WOULD HAVE PREFERRED JUNE. END TEXT. BRUCE

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 18 AUG 1999
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: n/a
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 30 APR 1975
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: CunninFX
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975NATO02406
Document Source: ADS
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: 11652 XGDS-1
Errors: n/a
Film Number: n/a
From: NATO
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t197504101/abbrzjrv.tel
Line Count: 117
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE
Office: n/a
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: CunninFX
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 01 MAY 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <01 MAY 2003 by ShawDG>; APPROVED <23 SEP 2003 by CunninFX>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
05 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: YUGOSLAV PRIME MINISTERS APRIL 9-15 VISIT TO THE USSR
TAGS: PFOR NATO UR YO
To: STATE INFO BLEGRADE
BERLIN
BUCHAREST
BUDAPEST
MOSCOW
OTTAWA

PRAGUE
WARSAW

Type: TE

Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 05 JUL 2006